Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that against the waiting list of 46,955 as on 1.3.2008, the waiting list has reduced to 25,077 as on 1.4.2008 for release of new LPG connections with their distributors in the country. This waiting list is expected to be liquidated by 15.05.2008. There is no waiting list pending with the OMCs for release of new connections in the State of Jharkhand. The State-wise details of waiting list position as on 1.04.2008 is as under:—

STATE/UT	NOS.
West Bengal	3794
Chhattisgarh	500
Madhya Pradesh	800
Kerala	19916
Lakshadweep	67
ALL INDIA	25077

Purchase of oil reserves abroad

3796. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU RAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether Government is investing Capital in foreign countries for the purchase of oil reserves;

if so, the details of capital amount invested during the last three years and till date; and

the present status of the oil project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government encourages oil Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) to acquire oil and Gas assests abroad.

Oil PSE's have reported that they have made an investment of Rs. 18,174.53 crore during last three years in the overseas Exploration and Production (E&P) projects.

The projects are at various stages of exploration, in six project production has commenced. These six projects are located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Syria and Columbia, contributing production of crude oil to 6.832 Million Metric Tonnes and natural gas to 1.928 Billion Cubic Meter in the year 2007-08.

Gas pipeline for Goa

3797. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether there is any proposal for laying the gas pipeline passing through Belgaum to the State of Goa;

if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard;

whether any estimate has been made in this regard;

the details of the estimated length of the pipeline passing through Goa; and

by when the details of the decision will be communicated to the State Government of Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The authorization for construction of Dabhol-Bangalore natural gas pipeline has been granted to GAIL (India) Ltd. on 2.7.07. A provision has been kept by GAIL for a tap-off at Gokak near Chikodi for laying of a spur 'ine from the tap-off point to Goa. Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for this is under preparation.

(e) A reply has been sent to the Government of Goa on 26.3.08 by this Ministry in this regard.

Consumption of kerosene oil

3798. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether the consumption of kerosene oil in the country is increasing every year;

if so, the details of consumption of kerosene oil during each of the last three years;

whether Government has made any assessment regarding reasons behind increase in consumption of kerosene oil every year;

if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

the steps taken by Government to meet the increasing demand, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of consumption of kerosene for the last three years are as under.

Figure in Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMTs)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Consumption	9541	9474	9353

(c) to (e) Do not arise, in view of reply to parts (a) & (b) above, which shows declining trend in the consumption of kerosene oil in the country.

Shutting down of oilfields

3799. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that a 24-day shut-down of Mumbai offshore oil exploration fields, has resulted in reduction of nearly 11 Million Metric Standard Cubic gas per day during January, 2008;

if so, whether such a situation has impacted LPG production by Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), at two of its plants;

whether a 24-day shut-down for offshore fields matches the internationally accepted standards; and

what are the global shut-down durations of large offshore fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) A 24-days shutdown was scheduled at a platform of Mumbai Offshore in Bassein field in January, 2008 from 02.01.2008 to 25.01.2008 r hook-up, integration & commissioning activities of new BCP-B-2 booster compressor